

Economics and Biology of Contests Conference 2016

Lisa M. DeBruine

Institute of Neuroscience and Psychology

University of Glasgow

Mating and Biological Markets

Abstract:

Biological Market Theory (BMT) was proposed by Noë and Hammerstein to explain interactions between organisms where different "classes" exchange commodities such as protection, food, grooming, shelter, or gametes. In this talk, I will explore how the five formal properties of Biological Markets can inform standard models of sexual selection to place greater emphasis on the roles of supply and demand or competition for partner choice. As examples, I will present data from studies of population-level mate supply and demand (i.e., sex ratio) in determining individual mating strategies (i.e., sociosexuality). I will also present data explaining how the tenuous link between mate preference research and mate choice research may be understood through the lens of Biological Market Theory.